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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT AN ETHNIC  
STUDIES CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH  
TWELFTH GRADE.

1 WHEREAS, education is a powerful tool that can empower our  
2 communities to remedy societal ills, such as racism, gender  
3 inequity, and discrimination, and can contribute to the  
4 development of civically- and critically-minded citizens; and  
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6 WHEREAS, under the current Department of Education  
7 curriculum, students are not exposed to accurate accounts of the  
8 history of various ethnic groups in a comprehensive manner; and  
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10 WHEREAS, many students do not perform well in school  
11 because they are unable to relate to curricula that is not  
12 culturally relevant to their experiences; and  
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14 WHEREAS, ethnic studies courses and lessons appeal to  
15 students who have felt invisible, marginalized, and disconnected  
16 from educators and the community at large; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the teaching of ethnic studies with an analysis of  
19 history through a community's nuanced perspective is an  
20 effective approach that can redefine the lives of people of  
21 color in the community; and  
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23 WHEREAS, high schools across the nation and in the State  
24 have found that implementation of ethnic studies curricula  
25 boosts academic achievement, test scores, and student engagement  
26 in all subjects; and  
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1 WHEREAS, as an interdisciplinary study, ethnic studies is  
2 easily incorporated into existing subjects such as history,  
3 social studies, and language arts programs; and  
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5 WHEREAS, ethnic studies promotes perspective-based learning  
6 and critical reading skills, which have the power to increase  
7 student involvement, reading comprehension, and standardized  
8 test scores and to decrease dropout rates; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
12 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
13 Education is urged to develop an ethnic studies curriculum  
14 appropriate for public school students in kindergarten through  
15 the twelfth grade; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
18 requested to submit a report regarding its plans to implement an  
19 ethnic studies curriculum for public school students in  
20 kindergarten through the twelfth grade, including any proposed  
21 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
22 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
26 Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 13 2015

